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(54) **Stopper-shield assembly**

(57) The present invention is a stopper and shield closure assembly 16 millimeter (mm) fluid collection tube whereby the 16 millimeter tube is compatible with conventional needle holders.

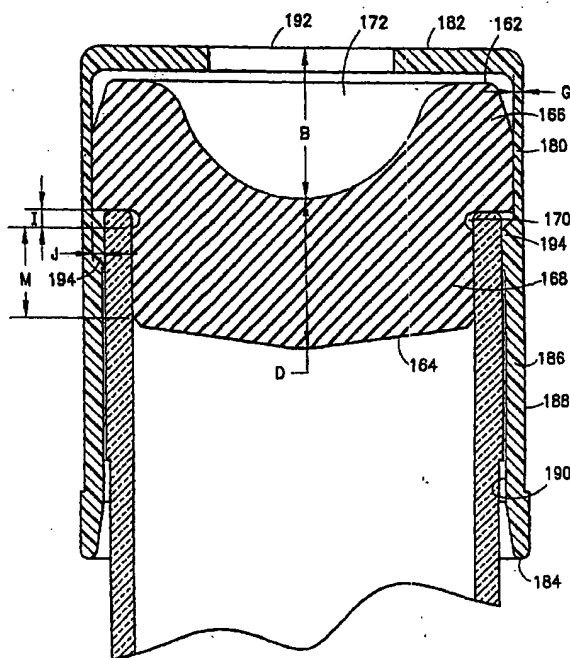


FIG.9

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 11 7621

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Y	* column 3, line 43 - column 4, line 64; figure 1 *	1	
Y	US 5 361 921 A (BURNS JAMES A) 8 November 1994 (1994-11-08) * column 3, line 5 - column 3, line 22 * * column 4, line 6 - column 4, line 36; figures 1,4 *	1	
X,P	US 2001/020607 A1 (CHIARIN RENZO) 13 September 2001 (2001-09-13) * paragraph '0017! - paragraph '0018! * * paragraph '0035! - paragraph '0050!; figures 1,6 * & IT PD980167 A1 (MEUS SRL (IT)) 3 January 2000 (2000-01-03)	1	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>MUNICH</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>28 May 2002</b>	Examiner <b>Smith-Hewitt, L</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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